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ABSTRACT

On December 27, 1978, the California State Department of Social Services issued a contract to the Los Rios Community College District for the training of foster parents, prospective foster parents, and agency workers throughout the state. The contract stated that training was to be provided for foster parents in 15 community colleges and that each participating college was to receive $1,500 to develop, refine, and implement training programs. As of January 1979, 27 colleges had expressed interest in participating in the project, and because of a surplus of funds in certain budget categories, it was possible to fund 21 of these colleges, instead of the proposed 15. Each college is structuring its program differently--some colleges are having one course composed of a set number of sessions; some colleges are holding workshops throughout the spring; and others are holding a number of mini-courses. The subject matter of these courses, the manner in which students were and are being recruited, and the techniques being used to present the material vary greatly from campus to campus. This report lists the participating campuses, campus liaison person, program type, and class dates. In addition, it offers brief descriptions of the activities of each campus, focusing on goals, topics to be covered, course structures, and staffing plans. (MB)

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CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOSTER PARENT TRAINING PROJECT: FIRST INTERIM REPORT - MARCH 30, 1979

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

On December 27, 1978, the State Department of Social Services issued Contract #38060 to the Los Rios Community College District for the training of foster parents, prospective foster parents and agency workers throughout the State of California. The contract states that training is to be provided for foster parents in fifteen community colleges throughout the state. The contract specifies that each participating college is to receive $1550.00 to develop, refine and implement training programs. The term of the contract is from December 27, 1978 to June 30, 1979.

On January 10, 1979, Paul W. Brown was appointed project director and Lucile Sands was appointed assistant director by the Los Rios Community College District.

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Because of the limited duration of the contract, there was not time to do long range planning. The project had to be quickly implemented in order to give the selected colleges a chance to offer a program in their communities during the spring of 1979.

On January 22, 1979, Gus Guichard, Executive Vice Chancellor of the Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges, sent a letter to the Deans of Instruction of all of the one hundred and six community colleges within the state, inviting them to participate in the Foster Parent Training Project (see Appendix A). Twenty-Seven colleges to date have contacted the Chancellor's Office, expressing interest in participating in the project.

Because the project started in January 1979 instead of July 1, 1978, there are surplus funds in some of the contract budget categories, such as wages and employee benefits for the project director and assistant director. With the approval of the Department of Social Services, these surplus dollars are being used to fund six additional colleges. To date, twenty colleges have been selected to participate during the spring of 1979. One other college will soon be selected from our list of applicants. We feel that this is an excellent utilization of the project monies to be able to assist twenty-one colleges instead of the proposed fifteen colleges.

Four of the interested colleges declined to participate because of inadequate time to develop their program. Many other colleges were not interested in this year's project because of the limited duration of the project and/or the small amount of funding provided by this year's grant. These colleges expressed interest if the project is adequately funded for a year or more in the 1979-80 school year. It has become very apparent that community colleges are interested and able in providing foster parent training, and many more would become interested if the project could be more long range.

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During the past two months, the project director and assistant director have been in contact with all of the participating colleges either by telephone or by an on-campus visit (see Table A). These meetings have been used to help the colleges develop a meaningful program for their communities that can be initiated during this Spring of 1979. Each college has or will set up an advisory committee, made up of foster parents, agency workers and college personnel, to assist in the development of their program.

Each college is structuring its program differently - some colleges are having one course composed of a set number of sessions, some colleges are holding workshops throughout the spring, and others are holding a number of mini-courses. The subject matter of these classes, the manner in which students were and are being recruited and the techniques being used to present the material, varies greatly from campus to campus.

Only two colleges have actually started their courses (see Table A), while the other colleges are scheduled to start sometime in April. The colleges have accomplished much in a short time and we are excited with the prospects of what will happen as their programs proceed.

COLLEGE PARTICIPANTS- SUMMARY

(Table A)

A. **The following campuses have been selected** to participate in the Foster Parent Training Project for the Spring of 1979. They will be providing courses, programs, lecture series, workshops etc., designed to meet the training needs of current and potential foster parents. Other class participants have been or will be foster care workers and volunteers.

COLLEGE	CAMPUS LIAISON	CAMPUS VISIT	PROGRAM TYPE	CLASS DATES
Bakersfield	Carol Sharpe	2/27/79	Short-term Classes	Spring '79
Cerritos	Richard Whiteman/ Dearesteen Langdon	3/1/79	Workshops/ Classes	Spring '79
Chabot	Bob Wood		Courses/ Workshops	Spring '79
Chaffey	Deborah Davis	3/1/79	Courses/Needs Assess.	Spring '79
Contra Costa	Chizu Iiyama	2/15/79	Short-term Classes	Spring '79
Cuesta	Edwin Pearce	2/28/79 3/20/79	Seminars/ Workshops	3/17,3/24 4/21, 5/5
Imperial	Barbara Macci	3/21/79	Mini-Workshops	Spring '79
L.A. City	Joan Hudiburg	3/2/79 3/28/79	Mini-Courses	Spring '79
L.A. Harbor	Jo Rae Zuckerman	3/2/79	Classes/ Workshops	Spring '79
Merritt	Ron Havemann/ Mardee Scott		Courses/ Basic & Advanced	Spring '79
Modesto	Ron Manzoni	2/26/79 3/21/79	Workshop/Courses	4/28/79
Monterey	Bea Siegel	2/16/79	Lectures/Discuss.	3/8-5/10
Orange Coast	Pat Eggleston/ Glenda Riddick	3/1/79	Lectures/Workshop Resource File	Spring '79
Oxnard	Jeri Jensen	2/28/79	Mini-courses/ Workshops	Spring '79
Porterville	Don Perez	2/26/79	Workshops/ Needs Assess.	Spring '79
San Diego	Ruth Morris	3/21/79	Short-term C./ Workshops	Spring '79
San Francisco	Rosemary Darden		Courses/Worksh.	Spring '79
Solano	Judy Isaksen/ Rick Ida	2/15, 3/21, 3/28	Courses/ Workshops	Spring '79
Taft	Dr. Paul Filter	3/20/79	Workshops/ Video T.V.	Spring '79
West Valley	Philip DeMarco	2/15/79	Classes 2 campuses	Spring '79

B. The following campuses have indicated a willingness to participate and may possibly be included in the project.

College	Campus Liaison
Cosumnes	Dr. Howard L. Harris
Saddleback	Roberta Berns
Ventura	Jack Fleming

C. The following campuses expressed interest in the project, but due to the short time-line, have declined to participate in this year's project.

College	Campus Liaison
Glendale	Griffin McKay
Mt. San Antonio	Marjorie Chitwood
Pasadena	Pauline Crabb
Riverside	Frank W. Budd

DESCRIPTION OF COLLEGE OFFERINGS

A great deal of enthusiasm and responsiveness from communities has resulted in the exciting beginnings of new foster parent training in several community colleges, selected to be project participants. The colleges' accomplishments are magnified when we realize the incredibly short time-span that they had to work with. Following are short descriptions of what is actually happening in our twenty project colleges at this time.

1) Bakersfield College (Kern Co.) - Bakersfield College will be offering a unique type of foster parent training. Carol Sharpe and Paul Howard met with Paul Brown on February 27th to discuss the possibility of training foster parents and day-care home providers with emphasis on special education. Special in-service training classes (short-term) will be offered and participants will become involved in practicum training at Bakersfield College Special Education Child Development Center. The two major goals in this project are:

   1. To train foster parents and day-care home providers in special education so that children with special needs can be placed in their homes.

   2. To help parents, staff and children foster positive attitudes towards mainstreaming children with special needs with "regular" children.

2) Cerritos College (L.A. Co.) - After meeting with Paul Brown on March 1st, Dearesteen Langdon and Richard Whiteman got their college program underway; first they gathered together an advisory committee and then planned a workshop for foster parent education during the month of May. Concerns to be dealt with in the workshop include:

   1. Human sexuality
   2. Behavior modification
   3. Disabled (exceptional) foster children
   4. Problems of teenagers
   5. Giving foster children enhancing self-esteem

Cerritos College will be preparing 2 nine-week classes:

1. Teenage Foster Children and Self-Esteem
2. Disabled (exceptional) Foster Children and Self-Esteem

Cerritos College is currently offering a class - "Introduction to Foster Parent Education," which will be followed by a second class entitled "Management Techniques for Learning Disabilities."

3) Chabot College (Alameda Co.) - Bob Wood, Chabot College's Project Director is planning to convene a 1/2 day workshop to assess the training needs of foster parents in the Southern Alameda County region. Workshop participants will include college representatives, County representatives who work with foster parents and foster parents in the community. Using the training needs identified in the workshops, a series of instructional courses will be developed for current and prospective foster parents. Such courses will be of varying length, ranging from one day to quarter length. A unique task to be faced by Chabot College is to develop and implement one or more foster parenting courses at the Federal Women's Corrections Facility at Pleasanton. Many children of the inmates are in local foster homes, and there is a great need to provide for the foster parents, given the special circumstances. A unique relationship with the facility will enable the college to offer courses inside the prison so that the mother can participate.

4) Chaffey College (San Bernardino Co.) - The college coordinator, Deborah Davis, met with Paul Brown, a foster parent and a representative from the County Department of Social Services on March 1st. The college has had a foster parent degree program for several years which is having problems because the needs and wants of the foster parents have not been met. The college project proposes to change the course and try to expand the base of people taking the course. The new program would begin by offering specialized courses in the community for foster parents and other child care workers, based on the training competencies represented in the Chapel Hill Curriculum model. A portion of this course will involve a needs assessment both for areas of specific training competencies for individuals in the introductory course as well as areas of curriculum development which can be used to develop a model program sequence.

5) Contra Costa (Contra Costa Co.) - During a meeting on February 15th, Paul Brown and Chizu Iiyama from Contra Costa College discussed gathering together an advisory committee and with their help developing a series of special classes (short-term) for foster care people. A one-day class on Adolescence will be offered on February 21st and another short-term class or Saturday workshop is a possibility during this semester. Occasional classes are sponsored in conjunction with the Department of Social Services -- e.g. "Intro. to Foster Care," and "Communication."

6) Cuesta College (San Luis Obispo Co.) - Paul Brown met with Edwin Pearce and other advisory committee members to plan a series of Saturday workshops. One workshop on March 24th will be directed by Dorothy Briggs - "Building Your Own Self-Esteem;" this topic is her special area. Other workshops planned include:

"Joys and Sorrows of Being a Foster Parent"
"The Challenge of Effective Discipline"
"Becoming a Foster Parent"

Cuesta College is getting news coverage in local papers. Many of the colleges, including Cuesta are providing free child care in their children's centers, which often is a determining factor by which a foster parent decides whether he will attend.

7) Imperial College (Imperial Co.) - Paul Brown met with part of the advisory committee including the college liaison, Barbara Macci on March 21st. The college is developing the first class for foster parents that has been offered there, and will be working closely with the County Welfare Department and foster parents. After assessing the training needs of the foster parents, the advisory committee will establish mini-workshops using Imperial Valley College Early Childhood faculty. On-going training needs for the future will be assessed after an evaluation.

8) L.A. City College (L.A. Co.) - Paul Brown has met twice with Joan Hudiburg at L.A. City College as well as the advisory committee. The advisory committee has developed a mini-course on foster parent/child interaction. One unit of credit will be given to attend the course, which will be held on Tuesday nights starting April 17th and ending June 12, 1979. Several guest speakers will present material in several areas, and there will be discussion and films. Topics in the series include:

1. Practical methods of discipline
2. Expected behavior at different ages
3. Developing child's positive self-image
4. Potential rewards of parent role
5. Foster parent effectiveness training
6. Community resources for foster parents.

9) L.A. Harbor (LA. Co.) - On March 2nd, Paul Brown met with Jo Rae Zuckerman and several officials from L.A. Harbor College. This group is working on plans to develop an A.A. Degree program for foster parents. This Spring there are tentative plans for several workshops which will help them assess the needs and interests of the foster parents in the area. The community served is very heterogeneous; there are people of many races, religions and income levels living in the L.A. Harbor service area.

10) Merritt College (Alameda Co.) - Merritt College has had some previous classes in basic foster parenting offered intermittently through the Alameda County Social Service Agency. Attempts to build a real program have been thwarted due to lack of college funds. As part of the project, Merritt intends to start with two basic courses for foster parents. One introduction course for one unit of credit is to be offered to prospective foster parents, and it intends to give them the opportunity to explore how foster parenting differs from parenting one's own children. A two unit course would be offered to inform foster parents of their rights and responsibilities, their relationship to the placement agency and other community resources and how to relate to the natural parents and the foster child. There are hopes to offer more courses that focus on specific needs such as foster parenting adolescents, etc..

11) Modesto Junior College (Stanislaus Co.) - Meetings with Ron Manzoni and the advisory committee on two different occasions have resulted in the planning of a workshop and potluck on a Saturday in April (28th). Several topics of concern to foster parents will be handled and both a keynote speaker from the field as well as an experienced foster parent, will be speaking sometime during the session. Procedures for topic selection, recruitment, evaluation and future planning will be refined by the advisory committee with input from the community. Several topics that are being seriously considered are:

1. Creative discipline
2. Handicapped foster children
3. Receiving homes
4. Teenagers
5. Art of accepting child into the home
6. Communication
7. Rights of foster parents
8. Growth and Development
9. Visits from natural parents

12) Monterey Peninsula College (Monterey Co.) - Monterey College, under the direction of Bea Siegel and the advisory commitee, has already begun implementing project plans. The format is a lecture series/discussion one, inviting guest speakers who will address concerns of foster parents, including parents of group homes, emergency homes and other homes for children with special needs. February 16th was the date of our first meeting with Monterey, and it was decided that the groups were to be held in the neighborhood. Already, six speakers and topics have been selected - three in March, two in April and one in May. The sessions are designed so that material presented by the speakers is integrated by the participants with their real life experiences. In this way, feedback and evaluation is very concrete. The program will provide the incentive to expand the group to include other foster parents who are not now receiving training. "The unique aspect of this program is that it is truly grass roots, building on an existing foundation of involvement in learning by a small group of foster parents. They can then be the models and inspiration for others to improve their knowledge and skills also" (Application-Siegel).

13) Orange Coast College (Orange Co.) - Coordinators of the Orange Coast Project, Pat Eggleston and Glenda Riddick, met with Paul Brown on March 1st. With the advisory committee they are planning a multi-faceted approach to the in-service and preservice training of foster parents. They are planning short, late afternoon or evening lectures or workshops. The college is also planning all-day conferences and a certificate program for those who would like to continue their education along more formal lines. Another activity will be the development of a resource book/file by the Foster Parent Association and Orange Coast College. Several program objectives have been listed including information about the special needs of foster children and the legal rights, liabilities and responsibilities of foster parents.

14) Oxnard College (Ventura Co.) - Paul Brown has met with Jeri Jensen, the coordinator at Oxnard College, and her advisory committee, as well as had recent contacts by telephone with her. The project is the college's first exposure to foster parent training and therefore the workshops planned shall be doubly productive as they will be forums for presenting

guest speakers to the group of foster parents, as well as finding out the in-depth needs for training in the community. The Department of Social Services and campus administration are very supportive of the project; the incorporation of permanent courses or perhaps a twelve unit certificate program in foster parenting may be a possibility if the community response indicates a need for this type of program. The population to be served is quite varied in terms of ethnicity and income range.

15) Porterville College (Tulare Co.) - The first campus visit with Project Director Don Perez and several school officials occurred on February 26th. Several contacts have been made by phone to assist the college in developing a format for needs assessment and workshops for foster parents. The service area has special problems due to a great many foster children, yet a very low county board rate for foster families. The community has had a very hard time recruiting and retaining their foster parents for county children while many state-supported children (a facility for children with special needs exists in the community) are in local foster families, being paid higher board rates.

16) San Diego (San Diego Co.) - With the direction of Ruth Morris and the advisory committee, San Diego will be providing an intensive experience for newly licensed foster parents in communication skills with emphasis on family communication and self-awareness. This will be followed by a six-week course in on-going training, practice and support in these skills. Several objectives have been decided on, and by providing these needed skills, it is felt that more families will be retained in the foster care system and at the same time provide more sensitive and skillful care for foster children. There is great cooperation among the agencies and foster parents, which is essential, as training is mandatory in San Diego County.

17) San Francisco City College (San Francisco Co.) - The San Francisco Community College District has had past offerings for foster parents including an introductory class, child development and Parent Effectiveness Training. The project would enable San Francisco City College to develop a more advanced component of in-service education for foster parents who are definitely beyond the introduction classes.

18) Solano College (Solano Co.) - Solano College has had no previous experience with offering a program for foster parent training, but with a great deal of enthusiasm, foster parents, college personnel and representatives from County Welfare and Health have formed an advisory committee. Already we have met three times during the recent month or so with this committee. This group has had some good ideas to meet the training needs of the county's foster parents. The main focus will be to explore the art of being a foster parent and to investigate and develop skills and techniques in fostering children who have been removed or separated from their own parents. There is a need for training in several areas and it is felt that through the use of a thorough needs assessment and workshop, more definite future training needs will be realized.

19) Taft College (Kern Co.) - Taft College's project is under the direction of the advisory committee and the coordinator, Dr. Paul Filter. The offering for foster parents is a new adventure at Taft, and it will be interesting to view how the project will meet the needs of the foster parents in this rural community. A unique approach will be employed in not only offering four workshops this Spring, but also each workshop will be video-taped and presented on television for those in the community who could not attend the session. A great deal of energy will be put into tailoring the program

to the needs of this community including a broad evaluation and recruitment process. This project will enable many parents to participate by television viewing, when they otherwise may not be able to attend in person.

20) West Valley College (Santa Clara Co.) - A district needs assessment study was undertaken in 1977. The study disclosed a need for such training, but at the time the college could not offer the program. Both colleges in the district will be involved and both advisory committees will help develop curricula closely associated with the district-operated Residential Care Home Administration Program. The college liaison is Philip DeMarco; Paul Brown visited this college on February 15, 1979.

PROJECT DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS

In looking back over what we have accomplished since the project's inception in January, I am pleased and impressed with how quickly the community colleges have been able to respond to the provisions of the contract. I believe that it is only the community colleges that have the organization and flexibility to respond so quickly to an expressed community need.

I also find each college's program to be unique and representative of the needs of a particular geographical area. The Chancellor's Office has been able to provide general guidelines, coordination and technical assistance, which the advisory committees have been able to tailor to meet the specific needs of a particular area.

Because of community college's unique position, I feel that serious consideration must be given to continued and greatly increased funding for the 1979-80 school year. Community colleges are in the best possible position to offer the short-term training that foster parents so desperately want and desire.

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
JUN 8 1979
CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES

January 22, 1979

TO: Deans of Instruction

FROM: Gus Guichard, Executive Vice Chancellor

We would like to invite your college to join in this year's efforts in foster care development. Fifteen community colleges, who have not previously participated in such projects, will be selected to work with the Chancellor's Office and the Los Rios Community College District to coordinate their efforts in the development of foster care courses and programs. The quality of foster care is vital to the well-being of all of the state's communities, and California's community colleges have the potential to serve as a focal point for the energy and skills of foster parents and foster care workers alike.

The Foster Parent Training Project, funded by Federal (Title XX, Social Security Act) and State money on a 75/25 percent basis, has its headquarters in the Chancellor's Office in Sacramento. The Project Director, Dr. Paul W. Brown, is available to provide technical assistance to all colleges interested in the formulation and implementation of a workable program in this field. In addition, a Statewide Advisory Committee will be set up. Members are to be drawn from all areas of the state, and represent various community colleges, social service agencies, and foster parent organizations. The function of this Committee is to act as a liaison between the project and the different constituencies represented, and to suggest new directions to be taken by the project.

Each of the fifteen colleges selected for the project will receive $1,550.00 to offset initial developmental costs. Participation requires that the college provide space, instruction, parking permits, and related items for conducting classes. This will be listed as in-kind costs (see Attachment "A"). Also, participating colleges share with each other information regarding course outlines, announcements, evaluations, and more specific data relating to class size and composition (see Attachment "B"). We hope you agree that this is a chance to establish programs which may well improve the outlook for some of the state's approximately 28,000 children in foster care.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. If you desire additional information or wish to participate in the project, please contact Dr. Paul W. Brown, Project Director, Foster Parent Training Project, 1238 "S" Street, Sacramento, California, 95814 (Telephone: 916-445-0486), or his assistant, Ms. Lucille Sands (Telephone: 916-445-0486). Since the monies, at present time, must be expended by June 30, 1979, we will need to receive requests at your earliest convenience.

cc: Superintendents/Presidents
Marc Hall
William G. Craig
Ronn Farland
Paul W. Brown
Lucile Sands

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